
NEWS RELEASE

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New DPOR Laws Regulate Building Energy Analysts, Support Military Spouses, and Protect Consumers

General Assembly changes effective July 1st

RICHMOND – Effective July 1st, several new laws affect individuals and businesses regulated by the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR). The General Assembly provides for professional regulation to protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

DPOR regulates only those professions and occupations determined by the legislature. In keeping with its mission and values, the agency strives to issue professional credentials in the least intrusive, least burdensome, most efficient way.

Senate Bill 1375 (Wagner) creates a licensure program for “residential building energy analysts.” Individuals or businesses making recommendations to improve energy consumption and efficiency will be required to obtain a license issued by the Virginia Board for Contractors. Qualifications for licensure are currently under development by the board, and interested parties may follow the regulatory process through the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall (www.townhall.virginia.gov).

House Bill 1862 (Cosgrove) and **Senate Bill 1361 (Stosch)** allows spouses of active-duty military personnel, who accompany the service member on overseas deployment, to obtain an extension to meet professional licensing requirements. The law already allowed the license status of active-duty military serving abroad not to expire during their deployment. Governor McDonnell requested this legislative amendment as part of his military/veterans agenda.

HB 1610 (Oder) and **SB 942 (J. Miller)** requires disclosure about defective imported “Chinese” drywall in all real estate transactions. Real estate licensees with actual knowledge of defective drywall who fail to disclose will be subject to disciplinary action by the Real Estate Board.

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About DPOR:

The Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) regulates nearly 40 occupations/professions designated by the General Assembly. For more information, visit DPOR online at: www.dpor.virginia.gov.